

§ 102.126 Unauthorized communications.

(a) No interested person outside this agency shall, in an on-the-record proceeding of the types defined in § 102.128, make or knowingly cause to be made any prohibited ex parte communication to Board agents of the categories designated in that section relevant to the merits of the proceeding.

(b) No Board agent of the categories defined in § 102.128, participating in a particular proceeding as defined in that section, shall (i) request any prohibited ex parte communications; or (ii) make or knowingly cause to be made any prohibited ex parte communications about the proceeding to any interested person outside this agency relevant to the merits of the proceeding.

§ 102.127 Definitions.

When used in this subpart:

(a) The term *person outside this agency*, to whom the prohibitions apply, shall include any individual outside this agency, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity, or an agent thereof, and the general counsel or his representative when prosecuting an unfair labor practice proceeding before the Board pursuant to section 10(b) of the Act.

(b) The term *ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given, subject however, to the provisions of §§ 102.129 and 102.130.

§ 102.128 Types of on-the-record proceedings; categories of Board agents; and duration of prohibition.

Unless otherwise provided by specific order of the Board entered in the proceeding, the prohibition of § 102.126 shall be applicable in the following types of on-the-record proceedings to unauthorized ex parte communications made to the designated categories of Board agents who participate in the decision, from the stage of the proceeding specified until the issues are finally resolved by the Board for the purposes of that proceeding under prevailing rules and practices:

(a) In a preelection proceeding pursuant to section 9(c)(1) or 9(e), or in a

unit clarification or certification amendment proceeding pursuant to section 9(b) of the Act, in which a formal hearing is held, communications to the regional director and members of his staff who review the record and prepare a draft of his decision, and members of the Board and their legal assistants, from the time the hearing is opened.

(b) In a postelection proceeding pursuant to section 9(c)(1) or 9(e) of the Act, in which a formal hearing is held, communications to the hearing officer, the regional director and members of his staff who review the record and prepare a draft of his report or decision, and members of the Board and their legal assistants, from the time the hearing is opened.

(c) In a postelection proceeding pursuant to section (c)(1) or 9(e), or in a unit clarification or certification amendment proceeding pursuant to section 9(b) of the Act, in which no formal hearing is held, communications to members of the Board and their legal assistants, from the time the regional director's report or decision is issued.

(d) In a proceeding pursuant to section 10(k) of the Act, communications to members of the Board and their legal assistants, from the time the hearing is opened.

(e) In an unfair labor practice proceeding pursuant to section 10(b) of the Act, communications to the administrative law judge assigned to hear the case or to make rulings upon any motions or issues therein and members of the Board and their legal assistants, from the time the complaint and/or notice of hearing is issued, or the time the communicator has knowledge that a complaint or notice of hearing will be issued, whichever occurs first.

(f) In any other proceeding to which the Board by specific order makes the prohibition applicable, to the categories of personnel and from the stage of the proceeding specified in the order.

§ 102.129 Communications prohibited.

Except as provided in § 102.130, *ex parte* communications prohibited by § 102.126 shall include:

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(a) Such communications, when written, if copies thereof are not contemporaneously served by the communicator on all parties to the proceeding in accordance with the provisions of § 102.114(a).

(b) Such communications, when oral, unless advance notice thereof is given by the communicator to all parties in the proceeding and adequate opportunity afforded to them to be present.

[42 FR 13113, Mar. 8, 1977, as amended at 51 FR 30636, Aug. 28, 1986; 51 FR 32919, Sept. 17, 1986]

§ 102.130 Communications not prohibited.

Ex parte communications prohibited by § 102.126 shall not include:

(a) Oral or written communications which relate solely to matters which the hearing officer, regional director, administrative law judge, or member of the Board is authorized by law or Board rules to entertain or dispose of on an ex parte basis.

(b) Oral or written requests for information solely with respect to the status of a proceeding.

(c) Oral or written communications which all the parties to the proceeding agree, or which the responsible official formally rules, may be made on an ex parte basis.

(d) Oral or written communications proposing settlement or an agreement for disposition of any or all issues in the proceeding.

(e) Oral or written communications which concern matters of general significance to the field of labor-management relations or administrative practice and which are not specifically related to pending on-the-record proceedings.

(f) Oral or written communications from the general counsel to the Board when the general counsel is acting as counsel for the Board.

§ 102.131 Solicitation of prohibited communications.

No person shall knowingly and willfully solicit the making of an unauthorized ex parte communication by any other person.

§ 102.132 Reporting of prohibited communications; penalties.

(a) Any Board agent of the categories defined in § 102.128 to whom a prohibited oral *ex parte* communication is attempted to be made shall refuse to listen to the communication, inform the communicator of this rule, and advise him that if he has anything to say it should be said in writing with copies to all parties. Any such Board agent who receives, or who makes or knowingly causes to be made, an unauthorized *ex parte* communication shall place or cause to be placed on the public record of the proceeding:

(1) The communication, if it was written,

(2) A memorandum stating the substance of the communication, if it was oral,

(3) All written responses to the prohibited communication, and

(4) Memoranda stating the substance of all oral responses to the prohibited communication.

(b) The executive secretary, if the proceeding is then pending before the Board, the administrative law judge, if the proceeding is then pending before any such judge, or the regional director, if the proceeding is then pending before a hearing officer or the regional director, shall serve copies of all such materials placed on the public record of the proceeding on all other parties to the proceeding and on the attorneys of record for the parties. Within 14 days after the mailing of such copies, any party may file with the executive secretary, administrative law judge, or regional director serving the communication, and serve on all other parties, a statement setting forth facts or contentions to rebut those contained in the prohibited communication. All such responses shall be placed in the public record of the proceeding, and provision may be made for any further action, including reopening of the record which may be required under the circumstances. No action taken pursuant to this provision shall constitute a waiver of the power of the Board to impose an appropriate penalty under § 102.133.

[51 FR 32919, Sept. 17, 1986]